

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT WITH VOLUNTEERS PROJECT PROPOSALS

Name of Project: Washington Maritime NWRC Invasive Species Baseline Inventory and Eradication

Refuge/Wetland Management District: Protection Island & San Juan Islands NWRs.

Project Description: This proposal will cover the initial phase of a grassland restoration project identified in the CCP for PINWR of up to 200 acres. Funding will cover mapping using GPS/GIS technology and control of Canada thistle, bull thistle, and field bindweed (all listed as State Noxious Weeds). It will also support surveys for native remnant plant populations within the Willamette Valley Upland Prairie and Savanna ecosystem. This ecosystem is considered one of the rarest in the United States with less than 10% remaining in Puget Sound and an estimate of less than 1% on the island. To properly plan for restoration we would need to gather baseline information on invasive species and the location of remnant native vegetation. Following the IPM plan, an integrated approach for the eradication/control of recorded invasive species will be used such as multiple treatments of grasses and field bindweed including fire, mowing, tillage, and spraying. Individual bull thistle plants would mainly be “popped out” with a shovel, while bigger patches might be sprayed or mowed. The time frame for monitoring will be from April-November and eradication/control will take place between February-November.

This proposal will address two high priority actions identified in the Integrated Pest Management Plan and CCP for SJINWR (conduct regular vegetative surveys and eradicate invasive species, especially English Holly and English ivy). Funding will cover the costs of conducting an inventory of all non-native species on Matia and Turn islands and removal of all holly and ivy found during the survey with the help of volunteers and the county weed coordinator. Small English holly would be hand pulled while larger ones would be cut and the stump and treated with herbicide. In addition, we will create layers in the RLGIS database for inventory results and treatment areas. If time allows, we hope to conduct an inventory of two additional islands with the same crew this year. Conduct a rapid assessment of the remaining 54 vegetated islands by boat to assess access and presence/absence of easily detected invasive species. This will facilitate prioritization of islands for inventory ED/RR efforts in out years.

Friends Groups, Volunteers and Other Partners: Friends of Dungeness NWR; Dungeness volunteers; Clallam, Jefferson and San Juan County weed coordinators.

Public Outreach and/or Environmental Education: Since Protection Island is closed to the public and it is a very well-known landmark within the community, there is always much interest in the island. Our friends group is currently working on documenting, via professional videography, the history, wildlife and restoration of native grassland on the island. This video will be shown to many people from school groups, civic groups, business leaders and foundations, to the general public at various events. The majority of this portion of funding would pay for the editing the raw footage to a presentation length for taking to the groups mentioned above. The remaining funds would be used to cover additional site visits to capture current vegetation and habitat condition; interview researchers; and document the history of the island’s human use.

Post-treatment Monitoring: This will include field checks to evaluate coverage and efficacy using GPS mapping and photo documentation in pre-established plots identified during the early detection phase over the next 8-10 years on PINWR. Similar pre/post survey plots will be established and monitored with mapping and photo documentation techniques on SJINWR.

Criteria for Project Success: 10-12 volunteers will be trained in id, mapping and/or control of invasive plants; 200 acres of grassland surveyed for remnant native grasses, Canada and bull thistle on PINWR; Over 200 acres will be surveyed for all invasive species on SJINWR; all results will be compiled in RLGIS database for the first time on these refuges; up to 192 acres treated on Matia and Turn islands for English Holly and English ivy.

Budget:

Equipment:

GPS Trimble GEO XT Std. edition, with Floodlight tech.	\$5,845
Pesticide storage Cabinet	\$ 600
Bow Saws	\$ 30
Backpack sprayer	\$ 150
Plastic Totes	\$ 100
Gloves	\$ 40

Travel:

Fuel 2 trips up to the San Juan Islands	\$2,000
MI&E (volunteers and staff)	\$ 552
Lodging (same)	\$1,068
Moorage	\$ 110

Herbicides:

Glyphosate 15 gal @ \$37.50	\$ 563
Milestone 5 gal @ \$ 275.50	\$1,378
Plateau 1 gal @ \$ 154	\$ 154

Outreach:

Film documentation	\$ 500
Film editing	\$1,500

Total	\$14,590
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Note: Under travel costs the MI&E and lodging would also need to be for staff as well since the volunteers cannot operate our motorboat without the required training and are not familiar with the islands. As mentioned per our phone conversation, if possible, the funds for the outreach and a portion of the MI&E and lodging would go to the Friends group for more efficient fund management.

NWRS Invasive Species with Volunteers Request for Proposals – FY 2012

In the FY-2012 budget, approximately \$100k has been provided to each Region to fund cooperative projects with Friends groups and volunteers for the monitoring and control of invasive species on National Wildlife Refuges. These funds will be disbursed through a competitive allocation process similar to previous years in which Regional Invasive Species Coordinators use the criteria listed below to select project proposals submitted to them by the refuges in their region.

Funding Disbursement:

1. Approximate \$100,000 of projects will be funded in each Region. Projects will be prioritized and selected by Regional Invasive Species Coordinators.

Project Proposal Criteria

1. Projects must address inventory, monitoring or control of invasive species (plant, animal or pathogen) on a National Wildlife Refuge or Wetland Management District. Lands working in partnership with the refuge (e.g., private, state or other federal) may be included, but work cannot be carried out exclusively on non-refuge lands.
2. Projects must include involvement by either Friends groups or volunteers working on the refuge.
3. Monitoring of treated areas is critical to the success of invasive species management. Projects involving treatment should include monitoring to evaluate long-term success of the project.
4. Preference will be given to project proposals that incorporate Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) elements.
5. This money must be obligated by the end of FY-2012.
6. Interim progress reports will be required for FY-2012 close-out by November 1, 2012. Reports are required to meet program accountability standards. A final report will be due to within three months of project completion. The final report should include number of acres inventoried, monitored or treated, benefits to the refuge and partners, number of volunteers engaged, and an accounting of how the money was spent. Updates should be submitted at:
<https://intranet.fws.gov/region9/refuges/InvasivesGrantForm/>
7. Matching funds are NOT required.
8. Please do not submit projects where all or most of the funds are used to hire contract labor. The purpose of these grants is not only to manage invasive species, but to actively engage volunteers in the process.

Proposals

Proposals should be one page and follow the attached outline.